P770084-1673

568

Congress of the United States
Committee on International Relations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 6, 1977

ACTION
is assigned to
EA

The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter which Mrs. Kim Dae Jung sent to Amnesty International concerning the health of her husband. As the letter indicates, Mr. Kim Dae Jung since 1971 has suffered from sciatica and deformation of his hip and leg joints. He apparently is badly in need of medical assistance by an outside physician.

I would appreciate it very much if our embassy in Seoul could raise this matter with Korean authorities and request that a physician selected by Mr. Kim Dae Jung examine him and give him treatment.

Your kind attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Donald M. Fraser, Chairman
Subcommittee on International
Organizations

DMF:jsj
enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY HT DATE 8/18/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
E.O. DERIVE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFY ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Amnesty International
53 Theobald's Road
London WC 1X 8SR
England

Gentlemen:

I am writing this letter as the wife of Kim Dae Jung. As you know, ever since August of 1973, when my husband was illegally kidnapped from Japan by the Korean Central Intelligence Agency(KCIA), I have been living under conditions of virtual house arrest under their strict surveillance.

Ever since May, 1971, as the result of an unusual automobile accident, my husband has suffered from sciatica and deformation of his hip and leg joints. There is alsoconcern that these injuries may be leading to a permanent damaging of the adrenal glands. Since his kidnapping and delivery here in Korea, my husband has not been confident about his medical treatment and his condition has steadily deteriorated. He has not been able to walk easily, and has experienced great difficulty even in trying to put on his clothing.

Even though there could be no concern about such a man escaping or destroying evidence, and even in his ill condition, my husband was imprisoned on the charge of having a connection with the Declaration of Democratic Salvation ofthe Nation of March 1, 1976.

He has now endured more than a year of prison life, and his illness has become worse, yet he has not once been able to receive adequate treatment. His medical treatment to date has consisted of the taking of blood pressure and a dose of pain reliever each evening. At present his face and legs are swollen and the swelling refuses to go down.

Out of concern for my husband's health I have on several occasions requested permission for a medical examination by aphysician from outside the prison. My husband has also made repeated requests through his lawyers for such an examination.

A few days ago a notice arrived saying that penal regulations do not permit what we have requested. In point of fact the Korean penal code, article 103, paragraph 2, provides that,"A warden may, when special medical treatment of a prisoner is recognized to be necessary, allow for medical assistance by an outside physician, in addition to the services of the official prison doctor." In spite of this provision, an outside diagnosis is not being permitted.

My husband and I both feel very strongly that x-rays and treatment by an outside specialist are absolutely necessary at this time.

Last year I appealed in writing repeatedly to President Park and to the Minister of Justice, but as yet I have received no response whatever. I intend to forward new appeals to them soon.

I feel that I have done everything I can under the circumstances we face here in Korea, so as a last resort I have decided to appeal for assistance to Amnesty International. I would be extremely grateful if Amnesty International, in a spirit of compassion, could help my husband to receive appropriate medical treatment in the way humanitarian fairness requires.

I feel that without adequate medical treatment my husband cannot endure thelong five-year sentence which he is now serving, so am appealing in this way for your understanding and support.

(Mrs.) Kim, Dae-Jung